

Application No. 09/973,337
Attorney Docket No. 00-424

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 10, and 18 – 22 are now pending in this application. Claims 11 – 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 is amended above without prejudice. Claims 21 and 22 are new. No additional claim fees are due in connection with this amendment, which adds no new matter.

The examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. Claim 15 is canceled above.

The examiner rejected claims 1 – 4 and 7 under 35 USC §102 but indicated that dependent claim 11 included allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended above to incorporate the limitations previously set forth in claim 11. Claim 1 is therefore now in condition for allowance. Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 7 depend from claim 1 and are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 – 10 and 18 – 20 have been allowed.

Claims 11 – 17 are cancelled in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Claim 21 is new. Claim 21 is similar to claim 1 but omits limitations of claim 1 referencing a hydraulic cylinder. Claim 21 does include limitations from now-cancelled claim 11 and is therefore considered to be allowable inasmuch as such limitations, in combination with other features of claim 21, are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Claim 22 is new. Claim 22 depends from allowed claim 8 and is considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

In view of the amendment presented above, this application is considered in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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